



Rockingham-Strafford County FSA

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Epping, NH 03042

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Hours

Monday—Friday
8:00 am—4:30 pm

County Office Staff

Carol Sargent
Program Technician
In Charge

County Committee

Richard Babcock
Wayne Elwood
Judith Merrill
Steven Panish
Glenn Pierce

Farm Loans

(603) 223-6003

Lorna Wakefield
Rebecca Davis
William Wilson

Website

www.fsa.usda.gov



COUNTY COMMITTEE ELECTION RESULTS

In December, all 5 LAAs in Rockingham and Strafford Counties held elections. Congratulations to the elected committee members:

LAA 1: Steve Panish; alternate Mary Current
LAA 2: Dick Babcock
LAA 3: Glenn Pierce
LAA 4: Wayne Elwood
LAA 5: Judy Merrill

A special thank you to Kathy McPhee for serving on the committee for the last three years.

NON-INSURED CROP DISASTER PROGRAM (NAP)

In the last few years, weather has played a significant part in crop losses. NAP is a program that helps producers to reduce their financial risk in the event of weather related crop losses. The administrative fee is \$250 per crop with a maximum of \$750 per county. Limited resource farmers may request a waiver of the fee.

The application closing dates are:

NOVEMBER 20 - All Perennial Crops
DECEMBER 1 - Maple Sap and Honey
MARCH 15 - Annually Spring Seeded Crops
SEPTEMBER 1 - Garlic, Aquaculture,
Christmas Trees, Floriculture, Ginseng,
Mushrooms, Ornamental Nursery, Turfgrass Sod
SEPTEMBER 30 - All Forage Crops

For more information, please contact the county office.

COUNTY OFFICE CHANGES

The Rockingham-Strafford County office is changing. With the retirement of Linda Pearson, the office is now staffed by only one employee. As a result, there may be times when staff is not immediately available. It would be a good idea to call prior to stopping by or call and make an appointment. Please be assured that if you leave a message at (603)679-4656 x 100 or send an e-mail to carol.sargent@nh.usda.gov, your concern will be addressed as promptly as possible.

2012 DCP/ACRE SIGNUP

2012 Direct and Counter-Cyclical Program (DCP) enrollment will begin Jan. 23, 2012 and will end June 1, 2012.

All producers planting on DCP base acres must be identified on the DCP contract and receive a proportionate share of DCP payment for the farm.

Changes on the farm after the June 1st DCP deadline, must be reported to your local FSA office such as:

- Ownership changes
- Producer changes (including both individuals and entities)
- Change in crop shares arrangements

No changes may be made to farm records after September 30th.

2010 SUPPLEMENTAL REVENUE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SURE) SIGNUP

Signup for 2010 crop losses under the SURE program began November 14, 2011 and will end June 1, 2012. SURE provides benefits for farm revenue losses due to natural disasters. For producers to be eligible they must have purchased crop insurance and/or Non-Insured Assistance Program (NAP) coverage on all crops grown on the farm that are considered of economic significance. Limited Resource, Beginner, and Socially Disadvantaged Farmers do not need to meet the insurance or NAP requirement. To be eligible in Rockingham or Strafford County, producers must have suffered at least a 50% loss in production to at least one crop of economic significance, report all acreage and provide production records.

For more information, please call the FSA office.

**PLEASE NOTIFY
US OF ANY SIGNIFICANT
WEATHER-RELATED LOSSES TO
CROPS, LIVESTOCK, AND/OR
BUILDINGS.**

FSA IS MOVING TO ELECTRONIC INFORMATION

The USDA Farm Service Agency offices are moving toward a "paperless" operation. County FSA offices will be transitioning from mailing monthly newsletters, reminder cards or other general information to electronic distribution of such materials. However, County Committee ballots will continue to be mailed to all eligible producers.

Producers will be asked to enroll in the new GovDelivery system which will provide notices, newsletters and reminders through electronic means. Also providing the local FSA office with the producers email will assist in a smooth transition to the new system.

Interested producers may send their e-mail address at any time. Currently the GovDelivery system is not fully operational. By providing an e-mail address now, we will be able to sign you up once the system is available. E-mail addresses can be sent to Carol Sargent at carol.sargent@nh.usda.gov.



FOREIGN BUYERS NOTIFICATION

The Agricultural Foreign Investment Disclosure Act (AFIDA) requires all foreign owners of U.S. agricultural land to report their holdings to the Secretary of Agriculture. The Farm Service Agency administers this program for USDA.

All individuals who are not U.S. citizens, and have purchased or sold agricultural land in the county are required to report the transaction to FSA with 90 days of the closing. Failure to submit the AFIDA form (FSA-153) could result in civil penalties of up to 25 percent of the fair market value of the property. County government offices, Realtors, attorneys and others involved in real estate transactions are reminded to notify foreign investors of these reporting requirements.

HIGHLY ERODIBLE LAND AND WETLAND CONSERVATION COMPLIANCE

Landowners and operators are reminded that in order to receive payments from USDA, compliance with Highly Erodible Land (HEL) and Wetland Conservation (WC) provisions are required. Farmers with HEL determined soils are reminded of tillage, crop residue, and rotation requirements as specified per their conservation plan. Producers are to notify the USDA Farm Service Agency prior to conducting land clearing or drainage projects to insure compliance. Failure to obtain advance approval for any of these situations can result in the loss of eligibility and all Federal payments.

HISPANIC AND WOMEN FARMERS

A process to resolve the claims of Hispanic and women farmers and ranchers who believe they were discriminated against when seeking USDA farm loans has been established.

If you believe that the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) improperly denied farm loan benefits to you between 1981 and 2000 because you are Hispanic, or because you are female, you may be eligible to apply for compensation.

For additional information on this and other settlement issues contact:

Hispanic and Women Farmer Claims Process:

www.farmerclaims.gov

or call 1-888-508-4429

Pigford–The Black Farmers Discrimination

Litigation: www.blackfarmercase.com

or call 1-866-950-5547

Keepseagle-The Native American Farmers Class

Action Settlement: www.IndianFarmClass.com

or call 1-888-233-5506

CONTINUOUS CRP

The Continuous Conservation Reserve Program allows participants to enroll environmentally sensitive land in conservation practices that will reduce soil erosion, improve water and soil quality and provide wildlife habitat.

Continuous CRP program participation is voluntary. Eligible landowners enter into contracts that range from 10 to 15 years in length. In return, the landowners will receive annual rental and maintenance payments, incentive payments for certain activities, and cost share for establishment.

To be eligible, participants and land must meet certain requirements. Landowners may enroll at any time during the year. For more information on Continuous CRP, please contact your local FSA office or visit <http://www.fsa.usda.gov/pas/publications/facts/html/crpcont03.htm>.

BANK ACCOUNT CHANGES

Current policy mandates that FSA payments be electronically transferred into your bank account. In order for timely payments to be made, producers need to notify the FSA county office if your account has been changed or if another financial institution purchases your bank. Payments can be delayed if the FSA office is not aware of updates to your account and routing numbers.

FARM STORAGE FACILITY LOAN PROGRAM

The Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities.

The new maximum principal amount of a loan through FSFL is \$500,000. Participants are now required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. New loan terms of 7, 10 or 12 years are available depending on the amount of the loan. Interest rates for each term rate may be different.

Payments may be made in the form of a partial disbursement and the remaining final disbursement. The partial disbursement will be available after a portion of the construction has been completed. The final disbursement will be made when all construction is completed. The maximum amount of the partial disbursement will be 50 percent of the projected and approved total loan amount.

Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. An FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin.

The following commodities are eligible for farm storage facility loans:

- Corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley or minor oilseeds harvested as whole grain
- Corn, grain sorghum, wheat, oats or barley harvested as other-than-whole grain
- Pulse crops - lentils, small chickpeas and dry peas
- Hay
- Renewable biomass
- Fruits (including nuts) and vegetables - cold storage facilities

For more information about FSFL please visit your FSA county office or www.fsa.usda.gov.

FARM LOAN PROGRAMS

The Farm Service Agency is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. If you are having trouble getting the credit you need for your farm, or regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are currently available.

Ask your lender about an FSA loan guarantee if you've had a setback and your lender is reluctant to extend or renew your loan.

Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans have a maximum limit of \$1,214,000.

For more information contact the Farm Loan team at 603-223-6003.

RURAL YOUTH LOANS

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5,000.

BEGINNING AND LIMITED RESOURCE FARMERS

FSA assists beginning and limited resource farmers to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm for not more than 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 % of the county's median size.

LOANS FOR THE SOCIALLY DISADVANTAGED

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or to continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating type loans and/or purchase or improve farms.

While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has provided priority funding for members of Socially Disadvantaged Applicants.

A socially disadvantaged applicant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of a group.

FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.



RETIREMENT

After 32 years working for USDA, I have decided to retire. My last day will be November 30th. Always remember, it is you, the farmers of Rockingham and Strafford Counties that have made my work so enjoyable. I have been fortunate to work with each and every one of you over the last 9 years. Thank you for your hard work and for producing food and fiber that is of the highest quality. Never Forget—You the farmers are the backbone of this country. It has been my pleasure to work for you! Take care and farm safely!

Linda Pearson

DATES TO REMEMBER	
On-going	Continuous CRP Sign-Up
January 16	Office Closed—Martin Luther King Birthday
January 23 to June 1	DCP Sign-Up Ongoing
February 20	Office Closed—Washington's Birthday
March 15	NAP Deadline for Annually Sown Crops
June 1	SURE Sign-Up Ends